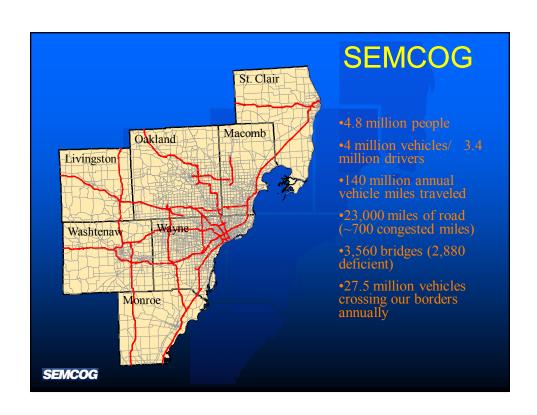
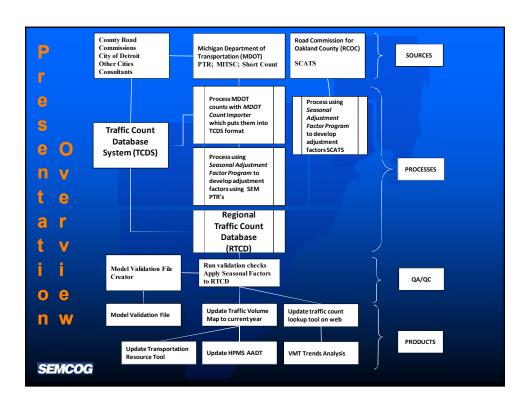
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments State of the art Traffic Count Program

Chade Saghir Senior Transportation Planner Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Travel Model Improvement Program Webinar Thursday, April 29, 2010







Challenges

- No consistency in count data format
- No central database for storing counts
- No efficient procedure for linking counts with model
- No way to determine if counts sufficient for validation

SEMCOG

Solutions

- Create regional traffic count database (RTCD)
 - Central repository for all counts
 - Source of counts for model, other apps
- Create automated procedure for linking counts with model
- Use power of GIS (linear referencing)

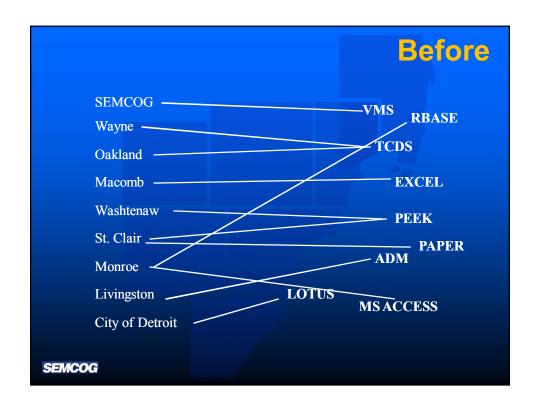
RTCD Development Issues

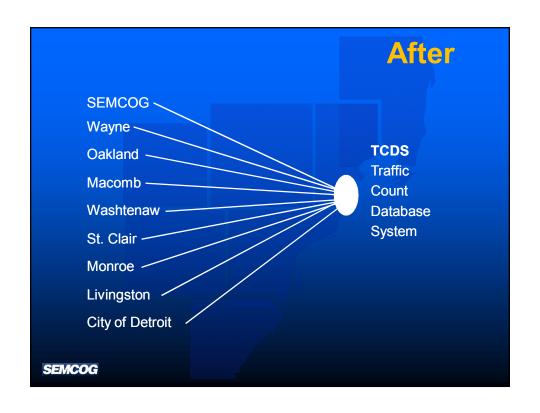
- Transferring data from multiple sources into common format
 - Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
 - Local agencies (counties, cities)
- Developing RTCD database structure
- Coding counts with GIS attributes

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Traffic Count Database System (TCDS)

- Software features
 - Web-based, friendly user interface
 - Direct uploading from traffic counters
 - Logical relational database structure
 - QA/QC Numerous quality control measures
- Provides SEMCOG easy access to counts from all seven counties, Detroit





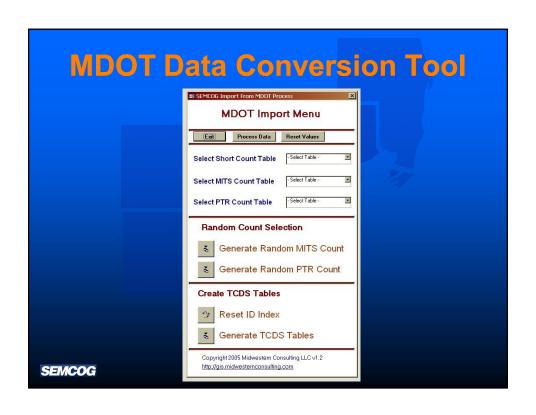
SEMCOG's Regional Traffic Count Database (RTCD)

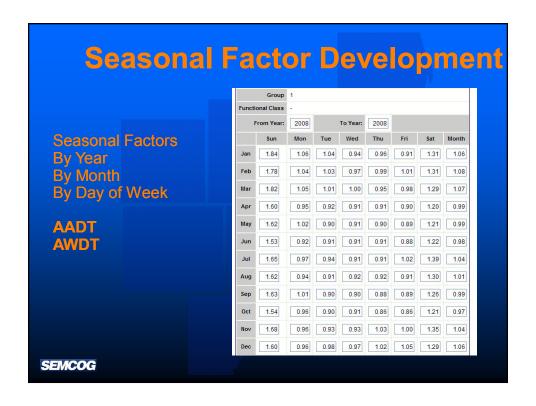
- Oracle database with three primary tables:
 - Count location descriptions
 - Counts
 - GIS (linear referencing) coding
- Number of records in database
 - Locations: 29,647
 - Total counts available: 96,849

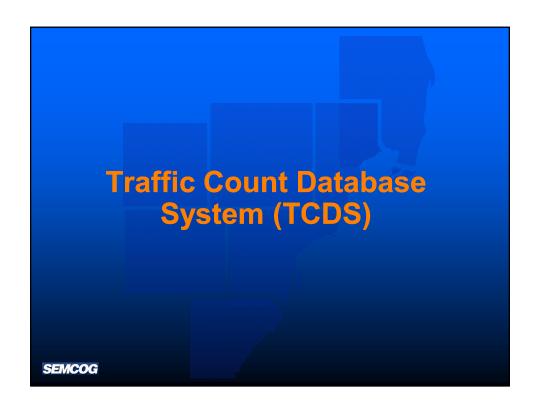
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Importing MDOT's Traffic Count Data

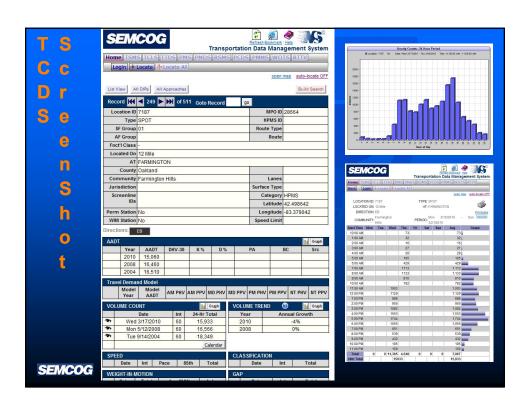
- Challenges
 - Understanding MDOT's count program
 - Three types of data: PTR, ITS, short counts
 - Different data format for each type
- Solution: MDOT data conversion tool
 - Converts all data into common format
 - Flags "representative" PTR, ITS counts

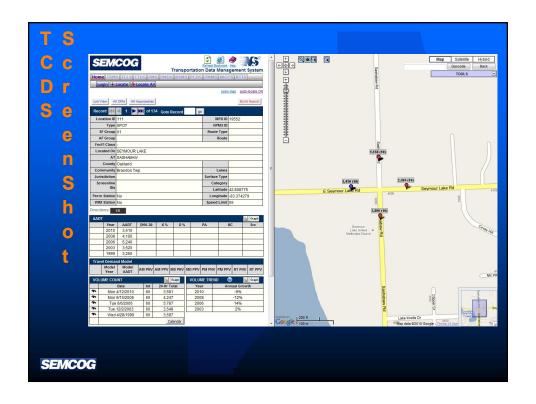


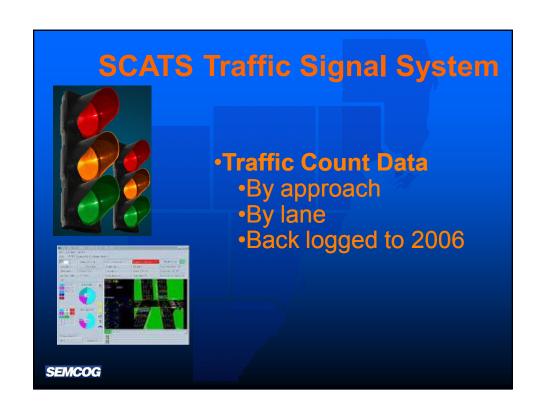




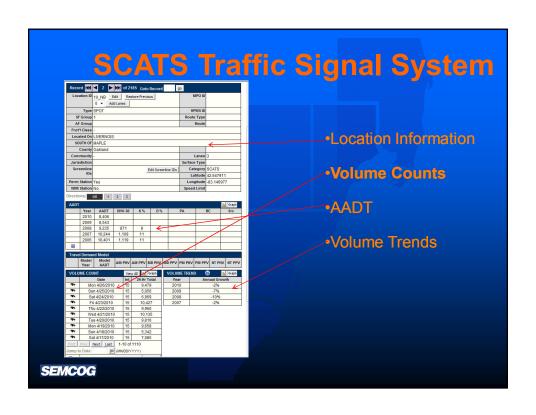


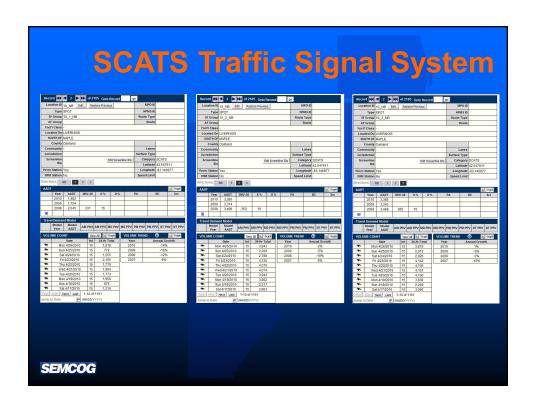


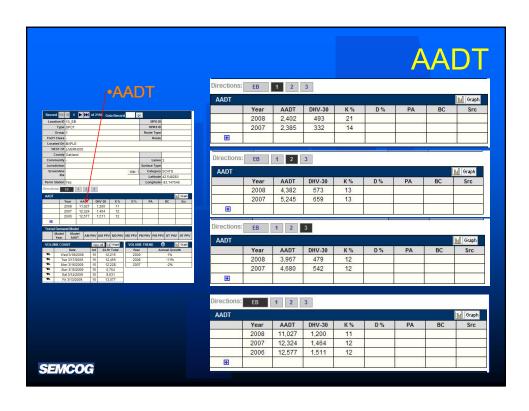










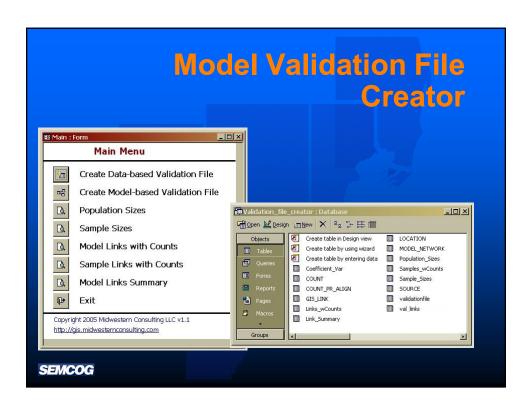


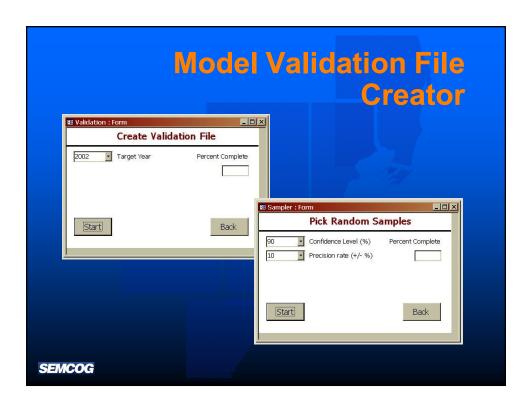




Model Validation File Creator

- Purpose of Program
 - Choose Best Count
 - Counts Needed
- Business Rules
 - Closest date to validation year
 - 15 min over 60 min
 - Directional over two way
 - Shortest Distance Away from center of model link





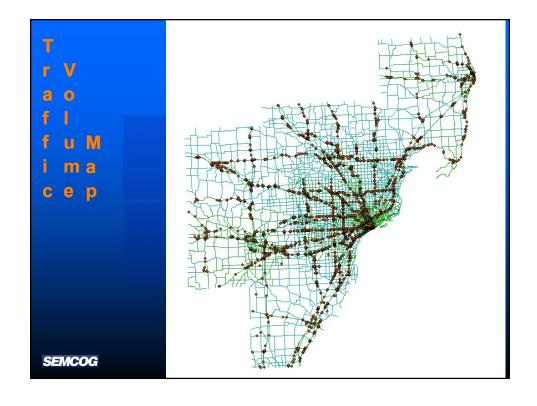


Other TCDS Applications

- HPMS volume updates
- Traffic Volume Map
- SEMCOG's Transportation Data Map
- VMT Trends Analysis

HPMS Volume Update

- HPMS volume updates
 - Using TCDS communities know what HPMS samples need to be counted.
 - Direct link from TCDS to HPMS database



Transportation Data Map

- SEMCOG's Transportation Data Map
 - Public access to all counts SEMCOG collects.
 - Both can search using a map or using a search tool.
 - Cuts down on traffic count requests from the public.
 - WWW.SEMCOG.ORG



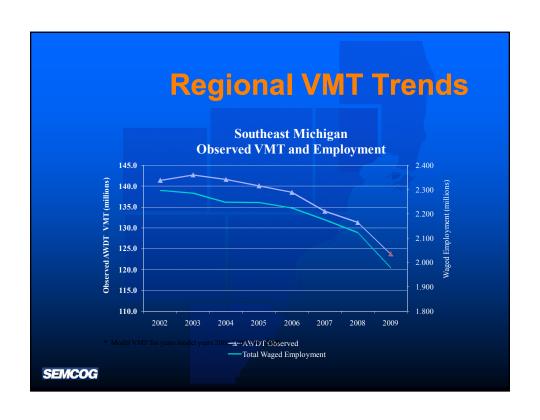
Regional VMT Trends

- Evaluate economic impact on the traffic
- Verify HPMS estimation
- Calibrate the travel model

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Regional VMT Trends

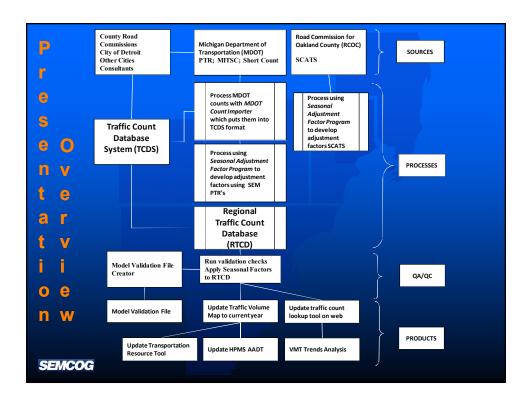
- Using travel model as a benchmark to expand the RTCD annual counts to the region
- Using volume difference between model and counts to estimate regional VMT
- Results were weighed by county and facility type





Final Notes

- Establishing data formatting consistency
- Effective communication, coordination with local agencies and MDOT
- Establishing data quality controls throughout process
- Finding innovative ways to collect count data (SCATS signals)
- Automating tasks wherever possible **SEMCOG**



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